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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/945,540	08/29/2001	John Raymond Arthur	DEE6270P0180US	1886

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EXAMINER

PEDDER, DENNIS H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3612

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/945,540

Applicant(s)

ARTHUR ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis H. Pedder

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16-18, 22-29 and 31-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 11-12, 16, 22, 25-26, 28, 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steyer et al. in view of Taylor.

Steyer et al. discloses a tractor with a metal cab frame 7 supported on a top side of a metal floor panel 5. Taylor discloses the utility vehicle with chassis and integral floor and fender structure 1 comprising a reinforced composite plastic material. The fender structures are seen to the outside of seating platform 7. For applicant's edification, the term "integral" is not limited to --one-piece--.

Further, Taylor discloses that the border of the floor is left uncovered by a layer of polyurethane and that this border is de-greased and abraded for securement to a steel cab structure, considered

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as a cab frame (see page 2, line 1-4, 28-36, and 75-77). Taylor secures the steel cab frame to the bottom of the floor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in Steyer et al. a cab floor as taught by Taylor in order to reduce weight and corrosion of the floor and a cab frame of steel for its inherent strength.

As to claim 4, Taylor has two such platforms.

As to claim 5, see foot areas 3 and rail portions formed by a bent section of the floor along the seating platforms, extending into the foot areas.

As to claim 7, see deck region 11, and rear wall to the rear of section 2.

As to claim 11, Taylor uses upper and lower layers of resin with a fiberglass layer sandwiched therebetween.

As to claim 12, Taylor molds a polyurethane layer atop the resin.

As to claim 16, see recessed area 14, useful for whatever is desired to be stored.

As to claim 22, Taylor has raised features at 11, for mounting of controls such as a shift lever.

As to claim 25, see bottom side members 7 of Steyer et al. and recesses at 8 of Steyer et al.

As to claim 34, adhesive mounting is taught by Taylor.

I. Claims 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steyer et al. in view of Taylor.

These features are of common knowledge in the art, obvious to use here for their known advantages.

Applicant may seasonally challenge, for the official record in this application, this and any other statement of judicial notice in timely manner in response to this office action. Please specify the exact statement to be challenged. Applicant is reminded, with respect to the specific challenge put forth, of the duty of disclosure under Rule 56 to disclose material which is pertinent to patentability including claim rejections challenged by applicant.

II. Claims 3, 8-10, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Steyer et al. in view of Taylor.

"RIM" is deemed to be a process step, not given patentable weight in a product claim (MPEP 2113).

As to claim 8, the upper layers of Taylor are composite plastic.

III. Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steyer et al. in view of Taylor and Richards.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide in Steyer et al. as modified by Taylor portions of the fenders for mounting to body/frame isolation mounts as taught by Richards at figures 8 and 9.

As to claim 13, the frame of Richards is steel and the frame disclosed by Taylor is steel as is common knowledge in this art.

IV. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steyer et al. in view of Taylor.

Taylor has features 5,6 for controls and steering column and surface 3 as step. Battery and fuel tank mounts are common knowledge in this art and not the proper subject for a patentable distinction.

V. Claims 17, 18, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor in view of Bonnett et al..

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide in Steyer et al. in view of Taylor an extended fender reinforcement to extend across the sill for mounting carpet or

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flooring material and sealing as door as taught by Bonnett et al. in order to seal door and window.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 19-21 are allowed.
5. Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims of record have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

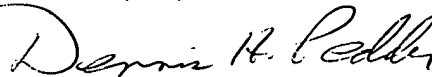
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis H. Pedder whose telephone number is (703) 308-2178.

The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn D. Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.



Dennis H. Pedder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612

12/8/03

DHP